

Appl. No. 09/888,651
Amendment dated October 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 18, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6. (previously presented): The conveyor of claim 17, wherein said lining has a thickness in the range of between 0.05 and 0.5 mm.

Claim 7. (previously presented): The conveyor of claim 17, wherein said lining is applied to said back support in accordance with one of undertakings including the application in molten state and spraying.

Claim 8. (currently amended): The conveyor of claim 17 ~~4~~, wherein said at least one wall has a surface adjacent said path and having a consistency resembling that of the surface of an orange peel.

Claim 9. (currently amended): The conveyor of claim 17 ~~4~~, wherein another of said walls is a portion of a conveyor belt arranged to advance particulate material along said path.

Appl. No. 09/888,651
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Claim 10. (original): The conveyor of claim 9, wherein said walls further include a third wall confronting said at least one wall and being disposed at one side of said portion of said belt, said third wall consisting at least in part of ceramic material.

Claim 11. (original): The conveyor of claim 10, wherein said duct includes two additional walls disposed at the other side of said portion of said belt and providing tracks for said portion of said belt.

Claim 12. (original): The conveyor of claim 11, wherein at least one of said additional walls has substantially trapeziform projections abutting said other side of said portion of said belt.

Claim 13. (original): The conveyor of claim 10, wherein said portion of said belt has two elongated marginal portions and said additional walls have surfaces each adjacent and each extending lengthwise of a different one of said marginal portions.

Claim 14. (original): The conveyor of claim 10, wherein said belt is located at a level above said at least one wall and said third wall and above said path.

Claim 15. (canceled).

Claim 16. (previously presented): A conveyor for flowable particulate material of the tobacco processing industry, comprising a duct defining a path for the flowable material and having walls bounding said path, at least one of said walls consisting at least in part of a ceramic material and another of said walls having a portion of a conveyor belt arranged to advance particulate material along said path,

the walls further including a third wall confronting said at least one wall and being disposed at one side of said portion of said belt, said third wall consisting at least in part of a ceramic material,

wherein said duct includes two additional walls disposed at the other side of said portion of said belt and providing tracks for said portion of said belt, and

wherein at least one of said additional walls has substantially trapeziform projections abutting said other side of said portion of said belt.

17. (previously presented) A conveyor for flowable particulate tobacco material of the tobacco processing industry, comprising a duct defining a path for the flowable material and having walls bounding said path for direct contact with the flowable material and forming part of a cigarette rod making machine, at least one of said walls being a stationary lining having a surface adjacent said path and consisting of a ceramic material, and

a back support for said lining, said lining being disposed between said back support and said path, wherein said lining is bonded to said back support.

Appl. No. 09/888,651
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18. (previously presented) The conveyor of claim 17, wherein said lining is bonded to said back support with adhesive.